IN THE CLAIMS:

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~~CLAIMS~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-13 (canceled).

14. (new) A plate for use in wet offset printing, comprising at a surface thereof ink-accepting surfaces corresponding to patterns to be printed, at least part of said ink-accepting surfaces being lightened, including thereby small non ink-accepting lightening surfaces,

wherein over at least part of said lightened ink-accepting surfaces, said small non ink-accepting lightening surfaces are distributed in at least two groups, comprising:

a first group of small non ink-accepting surfaces with an area sufficient to be effective *per se* and in a quantity sufficient to lighten the ink-accepting surfaces involved in lightening by at least 4%; and

a second group of small non ink-accepting surfaces, with an area insufficient to be effective *per se* because, said small non ink-accepting surfaces of said second group having a mean area, in general, of less than 2/3 of the mean area of said small non ink-accepting surfaces of said first group,

said small non ink-accepting surfaces of said first and second groups being distributed so as to minimize, and advantageously avoid, any moiré effects.

15. (new) The plate according to claim 14, wherein said small non ink-accepting surfaces of said first group and/or said second group are distributed in a random manner or in conventional screens and, for each color, in an orientation employed for the screen for said color.

16. (new) The plate according to claim 14, wherein when printing patterns with a stochastic screen, the small non ink-

accepting surfaces of said first and second groups distributed in at least one conventional screen are orientated for each color in the orientation normally used for printing the color.

17. (new) The plate according to claim 14, wherein the mean area of said small non ink-accepting surfaces of said second group is in the range 1/4 to 2/3 of the mean area of said small non ink-accepting surfaces of said first group.

18. (new) The plate according to claim 14, wherein:

when printing patterns with an amplitude modulation screen, the area of said small non ink-accepting surfaces of said first group remains smaller than a 95% white dot value, of said screen; or

when printing patterns with a stochastic screen, the area of said small non ink-accepting surfaces of said first group is always less than three times the area of the dot of said screen.

19. (new) The plate according to claim 14, wherein said small non ink-accepting surfaces of said first group are present in a quantity sufficient to lighten the ink-accepting surface concerned with lightening by 4% to 20%.

20. (new) The plate according to claim 14, wherein said small non ink-accepting surfaces of said second group are present in a quantity sufficient to lighten the ink-accepting surface concerned with lightening by 4% to 35%.

21. (new) The plate according to claim 14, wherein the percentage lightening of the ink-accepting surfaces is not constant.

22. (new) The plate according to claim 14, wherein none of said small non ink-accepting surfaces of said second group is in contact with a small non ink-accepting surface of said first group.

23. (new) The plate according to claim 14, wherein each of said small non ink-accepting surfaces of said first and

second groups is inside an ink-accepting surface within which it is present.

24. (new) The plate according to claim 14, wherein said small non ink-accepting surfaces of said first group have the same area and/or said small non ink-accepting surfaces of said second group have the same area.

25. (new) A process for preparing a plate according to claim 14, comprising copying said plate to generate the ink-accepting surfaces corresponding to the patterns to be printed on the surface of said plate as well as said small non ink-accepting lightening surfaces within said ink-accepting surfaces,

said small non ink-accepting surfaces being copied by a technique for exposing said plate through at least one film and/or a technique for exposing a precursor web of positive pre-sensitized plates through the opaque wall of a tube; and/or by a technique for directly exposing said plate with beams controlled by software; and/or by a projection technique.

26. (new) A wet offset printing process, comprising:

copying a plate, generating ink-accepting surfaces on a surface of said plate corresponding to the patterns to be printed and including small non ink-accepting lightening surfaces;

fixing said copied plate to a plate cylinder;

wetting, and then inking said fixed copied plate or inking it directly with an ink based on an ink/water mixture; and

transferring the ink held on said lightened ink-accepting surfaces onto the blanket, and then onto the substrate to be printed in succession;

wherein the copy of said plate generates a plate according to claim 14.